Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by the Transport Departments of the State Governments.

(5) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(6) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in Delhi.

(7) Optimization of traffic and improvement in traffic management system.

Meeting of NRCP

4618. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National River Conservation Plan was held recently in Delhi which Ministers from different States also participated;

(b) if so, what are the details of decisions taken at the meeting; and

(c) how much funds are likely to be released by Central Government during the current year for river cleaning schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting of National River Conservation Authority was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 13.3.2001 wherein the following resolutions were adopted:

1. While river cleaning would need to be given a much higher priority, it is also essential that resources are not spread thinly. The focus, therefore, has to be on large towns, which are gross polluters.
2. In case of works already completed assets need to be maintained and also continuously operated/utilized for which

funds must be earmarked by the States. The States/UTs must meet the O&M costs which on an average is around 5% of the capital cost.

3. A holistic and integrated approach shall be adopted by addressing not only river pollution but other components like internal sewage, solid waste disposal, low cost toilets etc.
4. The cost of works shall be shared between the Central and States/local bodies, public on 70:30 basis. The public shall contribute not less than 10% of the cost.
5. A detailed plan for recovery/operation maintenance cost shall become part of the project proposal in future.
6. Because of delay in implementation, there is a cost overrun in many schemes. The Central share in the total cost will be limited to the ceiling amount approved by the CCEA. Balance cost, if any, is to be borne by the respective State Governments.
7. Approved works must be completed first and where States/UTs have not been responsive enough and such works have been pending for more than two years because of non-action by States, a Committee of Secretaries consisting of Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Secretary, Finance, Secretary, Planning Commission and Chief Secretary of the concerned States shall review the necessity of such schemes.
8. National Lake Conservation Plan shall receive the same priority as the rivers.
9. Mobilization of resources/funds will need special attention. Plan outlays would need to be enhanced substantially so that gap between fund requirements and outlays is bridged.
10. Coastal towns would get special attention because it has been observed that sewage, solid waste, bio-medical waste and the like are dumped into sea. Prioritization of coastal towns for taking up such works may be done from the angle of mangroves, promotion of eco-tourism, cultural and religious importance of the place and the like.

11. With a view to focus on issues relating to protection and improvement and cleaning of rivers/lakes, a massive programme of environment education and awareness is imperative. Centre and States to launch this campaign through a programme of volunteers called "National Green Volunteers".

(c) An amount of about Rs. 181 crore has been provided in the current annual plan i.e. 2001-02 for the river cleaning schemes.

Tiger Population in the country

4619. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of tiger population in the country as per the last tiger census conducted in 1999 and its comparison with other countries in the world;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tiger population in the country has been dwindling in recent years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in recent years to check poaching of tigers in the country and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of tiger population as per the last tiger census conducted in 1997 is given in Statement-I *(see* below). A comparision of tiger population of India with that of other tiger range countries is in Statement-II *(see* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The efforts made for protection of tiger and other wildlife in the country are:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.